

Good Counfel

AND

ADVICE

UNTO THE

Magiftrates and People

OF

NORWICH:

With a brief Relation of fome of the Sufferings of the People of God, called,

QUAKERS

In the faid CITY,

---

---

Printed in the Year, 1676.



TO THE  
Magistrates and People of  
NORWICH,

**A** Relation of your Proceedings against your peaceable Neighbours called Quakers, coming to our View, we, in the pure Fear of Almighty God seriously read and considered the same; and we find them so contrary to the Command of God and our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Doctrine and Practice of the holy Apostles and primitive Christians, That we are really Sorry that you should be found in such a Work, who do profess Christ Jesus to be your Lord, & the holy Command, given by him, mentioned in the holy Scriptures to be your Rule and God to be your Father, &c.

We desire you in the Tender Love of God, seriously to consider how contrary these your proceedings are to the Command of Almighty God, whose express Command is, Thou shalt love thy Neighbour as thy self, thou shalt not bear false Witness against him, thou shalt not covet his Ox nor his Ass, nor any thing that is his, &c.

And also consider how contrary these your proceedings are to the Command of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, whose Unalterable Command is to all Christians to love one another, and not only so, but also to love their Enemies, and to do good unto them, &c.

And we do desire you to take notice that Christ Jesus hath left no Command nor Example for you nor any who do profess to be his Servants to persecute, spoyle Goods and imprison about Faith, Worship and Obedience to him; for Christ and his Apostles did never persecute about Religion; for True Faith is the Gift of God (as the Holy Scripture saith) and the Holy Apostle saith, That which is not of Faith is Sin, and also saith, let every man be fully perswaded in his own Heart, &c. And

(4)

And we do desire you seriously to consider and obey the Command of Christ, who saith, Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them.

This Rule of doing as you would be done by, useth to be highly commended in Words in England, and by many called the Golden Rule: We do from the Bottom of our Hearts desire that the Magistrates, Teachers and People of England and all Nations, may come to the Practice of this Golden Rule.

We do also desire you to consider that God almighty is a pure Fountain of Love (as the Holy Apostle saith) and he also saith, They who dwell in God, they dwell in Love: Love in Mankind one unto another is the fulfilling of the Law of God in them; Love (saith the Holy Apostle) thinketh no Evil; it doth not behave it self unseemly or uncomely; but your spoiling the Goods of your peaceable Neighbours, and imprisoning some of them (only for waiting upon God, and for worshipping him as he doth teach and command them by his good Spirit which he hath promised, & given to lead his People into all Truth) is certainly highly displeasing unto Almighty God, and of an ill Savour and uncomely in the Sight of all Tender-hearted People, who come to hear of your Harsh and Unchristian Proceedings against your peaceable and industrious Neighbours, and therefore in Tender Love to your Immortal Souls we do desire you to desist from such Proceedings; for verily, if these proceedings be not unfeignedly repented of, and forsaken, they will certainly bring the Wrath of God upon you. Oh consider seriously the time hastens, wherein you must give an Account to Almighty God for your Deeds done in the Body, and must receive a Reward accordingly; to him we do leave you, and truly desire that you may be found in those things which may please him, that his Blessing may be upon you in this World and that which is to come,

London, the 11th of  
the 8th Month,  
1676.

William Gibson,  
James Claypoole,  
Philip Ford.

John Osgood,  
William Mead,  
William Shewen,  
Henry Snooke,  
Gilbert Latie,  
Arthur Cooke.

*The Relations of the Sufferings of the People of  
God called Quakers in Norwich are as follow.*

**O**N the 1st of the Moneth called *March* last, *John Shapen* jun. for being at a peaceable Meeting to wait upon God, in *Norwich*, the 27th of the 12th Moneth last, had taken from him, by one *Beak* and *John Stone* Constables, by Warrant from *John Manser* then Mayor, *John Tennyson* & *Charles Tennyson* Informers, 5 pair of Shoes called Flyers and a Cake of Tallow.

Ditto *John Fedman*, for being at the same Meeting, had taken from him, by *William Poole* Constable, Goods worth 8s. 6d.

*John Dilerance*, for the same Cause, had Goods taken worth 10 s. for a Fine of 5 s. by *Edward Trunk* Constable, *William Chessen* Overseer, and *Tho. Leman* Church-warden.

Ditto, *Anthony Alexander*, for being at the same Meeting, was fined for himself, and the third part of 20 l. for the House, and had as many Splightings or Hides taken out of his Fats. as were worth 8 l. 17 s.

Note, *Erasmus Cooper* entering *Anthony's House*, in a suddain surprizing manner, said to the Man's Wife, who was big with Child, He came to seize all she had for the King: She said, That was hard, to seize all for 7 l. Fine: He replied, He would not leave her a Bed to lie on: And he went to the Shop Door, and finding it lockt, he fetcht a Pickax, and break it open, and he and the rest of his Companions were so Cruel and Unneighbourly, that it caused Tears to trickle down the Checks of some of the Neighbours, who beheld them; the Names of his Assistants are *Nic. Becket* Constable, *Robert Clarke* Ward-en, *Edward Cullier* Overseer, *Edw. Makins* and *Richard Pye*.

In the third Moneth last the same Officers accompanied with

two other (*viz.*) *Isaac Wollfill* and *Nath. Ponder* Overseers, went into the Yard of the said *Anthony Alexander*, privately by the Crick Side in a Boat, with a Warrant from *John Manser* Mayor and *Francis Bacon* Steward, for the third Part of 20 l. being a Fine imposed on him for the Cause aforesaid, for which they took seven Dozen of Calf-Skins worth 8 l. 8 s. and commanded his Man to assist them to pull the Ware out of the Fatts, which he refusing to do, they gave him abusive Words; *Anthony* said, *It was unreasonable to require the Man to assist in taking his Master's Goods from him*; *Robert Clarke* answered, *They were their Goods.*

*Robert Hutchison* on the 4th of the 5th Moneth last, for being at a Meeting, had Household-Goods taken away to the Value of above 7 s. by Warrant from *Tho. Checkering* Mayor, by *Richard Lustbrooke* and *John Allen* Constables, and *John Freeman* Warden, and *Christopher Hastead* Overseer.

*Samuel Duncon* in the 5th Moneth last had taken from him for meeting to worship God, Household Goods and Wares to the Value of 42 l. 19 s. 3 d. by Warrants signed by *Francis Bacon* and *John Manser* Mayor; and *John Crow* and *Gamaliel Sugden* Wardens, *Tho. Southgate Jun.* *Edward Mayhew* Overseers, *William Pool* pretended Constable, *Charles Tennyson* Informer, *Tho. Giddens* Carter, *Tho. Woods*, *John Brown*, and *Robert Phebee*, Helpers together with the Hangman.

Note, *The aforesaid Officers took Possession of Samuel Duncon's House, and there kept Night and Day, from seventh Day in the Afternoon till the second Day in the Afternoon, loading away his Goods, as if they had been their own, and breaking up Locks at their Pleasure, keeping Samuel's Wife, who was big with Child, as a Prisoner in her own House the first Night, nor suffering her to speak with any so much as at the Door, nor any to come to her, till some of the Magistrates being spoken to abate it (for Shame and Cry of the People) ordered it.*

And the Reader may take Notice of the Insolency and Vileness of one of the aforesaid Informers, who boastingly said, *He would make the Mayor wait upon him as often as he would at his Pleasure*: Oh a sad Age, that such ungodly, vile, idle,

1735  
1735  
(7)  
prophane Men should be encouraged thus to vaunt themselves against, or rather over the Magistrates of this Nation, whose Sword in Justice ought to be a Terror unto them, they being Evil-doers in the Sight of the just God, who hates Oppression, and in the Sight of just Men; and it's to be lamented, that under-Officers are forced to proceed in making Havock of their peaceable Neighbours Goods against their Consciences, to satisfy those greedy Informers; as witness the afore-said Pool Constable, when he went with the Informer to the Meeting in Norwich the 16th of the 5th Month, & hearing the Truth declared, he cryed with Tears in his Eyes, *What shall I do? I know the Power of God is among you*, and told the Informer, *That if there were a Curse hung over any People upon the Earth, it was over the Informers*, and said to S. D. afterwards, *That he confest he had sinned against his Conscience in doing what he did.*

*And Note further, that since the taking of the said Samuel Duncon's Goods, John Tennyson one of the said Informers is laid up in Prison upon an Execution for Debt; and he hath confest he never prospered since he took in Hand that Work, and said, he knew not what to do, and said, if he were at Liberty, he would never meddle more. So People may see how badly his ill gotten Goods prosper with him.*

*Note, John Crow wou'd not suffer an Account to be taken of the Goods he and the rest of them took away of Samuel Duncon's, but when a Man was taking an Account, he snatched it from him; and put it in his Pocket; and the said Crow finding Samuel Duncon's Shop set open the second Day in the Morning, shut it up again himself; thus acting like Plunderers in Time of War, which is a Shame to Magistrates, that they should suffer such Things in Times of Peace.*

*Since the other Account, Nich. Becket Constable, Robert Clarke and Robert Sellers Wardens, Nathanael Ponder Overseer, by Warrant from Tho. Chickering Mayor (for a Fine of 10 Pound imposed upon Anthony Alexander for the Meeting-house) did with the Help of Andrew Cooper and William Drayton, carry away from the said Anthony fifteen Splittings, worth 9 l. 15 s. four Horse Hides, worth 1 l. 10. and eleaven Couple.*



Couple of Wombs, worth 14 s. 8 d. in all to the Value of  
11 l. 19 s. 8 d.

*Some Part of the Goods that were taken away were bought by  
these Persons following.*

*Mary Cumber of Gregory's Parish bought six Cushions,  
which cost 3 s. 6 d. a piece, for 3 s. 6 d. the Widdow Crane  
of Giles's, and Edward Cook's Wife of the same, and one Ea-  
ton a Cobler's Wife in Gregory's Parish, and one Bernard a  
Sch ool-master bought several of the said Goods.*

*For the Oppression of the Poor, for the Sighing of the Needy, now  
will I arise (saith the Lord) I will set him in Safety from him  
that puffeth at him, Psal. 12. 5.*

*For the Needy shall not alway be forgotten, the Expectation of the  
Poor shall not perish forever.*

---

THE END.

---





